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Texas Department of Health

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TO: Kidney Health Care Providers and Recipients

**FROM: Debra Wanser, R.N., M.P., Aff.
Associate Commissioner
Associateship for Family Health**

DATE: November 24, 2003

SUBJ: Kidney Health Care Program Benefit Changes for FY 2004

As indicated in the previous notice, it may become necessary to implement additional program benefit changes in order to provide client services within the available appropriation and client services budget. At this time there will be no changes made to the medical benefit for dialysis services and access surgery during FY 2004.

The following change will be made to the Kidney Health Care (KHC) drug benefit during FY 2004:

Effective January 01, 2004, KHC will discontinue coverage of Renagel for the remainder of FY 2004 (January 01, 2004 - August 31, 2004). Claims for Renagel are estimated to be paid through December 31, 2003.

The Genzyme Corporation has worked diligently with the Department in developing and implementing creative solutions to KHC budget issues in an effort to continue patient access to Renagel. Genzyme will establish a temporary program, providing donated Renagel products to KHC patients. Providers will receive more detailed information in the very near future directly from your Genzyme representatives. **In the interim, if you have any questions regarding the Renagel Donation Program, please call 1-800-847-0069, extension 16832.**

We request that all dialysis facilities notify your physicians and patients about this KHC drug benefit change. If you have any questions regarding this notification, please call the Bureau of Kidney Health Care, at 1-800-222-3986 or 512-834-4551.